

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11358 221605Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /026 W
-----019749 221610Z /42 53
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 6, LINES 3 & 4)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, US
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMERICAN CHRISTIAN EVANGELICAL LEADERS

REF: STATE 100490

1. WE HAVE LITTLE DIRECT INFORMATION ABOUT VISIT OF
REFERENCED GROUP TO EGYPT. WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT GROUP
VISIT FOLLOWS.

2. ON EVENING APRIL 11, PAO RECEIVED PHONE CALL AT HOME
FROM A MR. BILLY ZEOLI, WHO SAID HE WAS IN CAIRO WITH A
GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS OF
AMERICA. HE EXPLAINED GROUP INCLUDED CHRISTIAN MINISTERS
AS WELL AS MEDIA EXECUTIVES. GROUP WAS TOURING MIDDLE
EAST IN AN EFFORT TO SUPPORT PEACE PROCESS. ZEOLI SAID
THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE THROUGH MUHAMMAD HAKKI
OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY/WASHINGTON TO COME TO CAIRO IN ORDER
TO MEET PRESIDENT SADAT. THEREAFTER GROUP PLANNED GO TO
JORDAN, LEBANON AND ISRAEL. HAKKI, ACCORDING ZEOLI, HAD
ARRANGED MEETING WITH SADAT AND HAD INDICATED GROUP WOULD
BE GUESTS OF GOE WHILE IN THE COUNTRY. ZEOLI ADDED THAT
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HE HAD MET SADAT AT A WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION RECENTLY AND
LIKED HIM. HAKKI HAD ALLEGEDLY ALSO PROMISED ARRANGE
LEBANON AND JORDAN PORTIONS OF TRIP AND HAD SAID
THAT A MR. "SAAD KAMAL" WOULD COME TO GROUP'S CAIRO HOTEL
TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF LEBANESE PORTION. WHEN GROUP
DEPARTED NEW YORK, ONE AYMAN AL AMIR OF EGYPTIAN U.N.
MISSION WAS AT AIRPORT TO SEE THEM OFF. HE HAD ALLEGEDLY

STATED THAT APPOINTMENT WITH SADAT WAS ALL SET AND THAT GROUP WOULD BE MET BY EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AT CAIRO AIRPORT UPON ARRIVAL.

3. WHEN GROUP ARRIVED IN CAIRO (EITHER APRIL 10 OR 11), THEY WERE NOT MET AT AIRPORT, HENCE CHECKED INTO JOLIEVILLE HOTEL. (GROUP MEMBERS HAD APPARENTLY MADE OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS THROUGH SWISSAIR.) AFTER UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTING CONTACT SOMEONE AT THE PRESIDENCY, AND HEARING NOTHING ABOUT THEIR EGYPTIAN OR OTHER APPOINTMENTS, ZEOLI TELEPHONED HAKKI IN WASHINGTON. HAKKI WAS REPORTEDLY UPSET THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN MET AND SUGGESTED ZEOLI CALL (A) SAAD ZAGHLUL NASSAR, PRESIDENT'S PRESS SECRETARY, (B) MURSI SAAD AL DIN, DIRECTOR, EGYPTIAN INFORMATION SERVICE, (C) ALI HAMDI AL GAMAL, AHRAH CHIEF EDITOR, AND (D) EMBASSY PAO, IN THAT ORDER. HAKKI PROVIDED HOME PHONE NUMBERS FOR ALL FOUR. PAO WAS ONLY ONE ZEOLI COULD REACH. HE SAID HE HAD LEARNED THAT SAAD ZAGHLUL WAS IN ASWAN WITH SADAT AND MURSI'S HOME PHONE DID NOT ANSWER. ZEOLI ASKED PAO WHAT GROUP SHOULD DO, SINCE IT WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE EGYPT APRIL 13.

4. PAO SUGGESTED ZEOLI CONTINUE TO TRY TO CONTACT NASSAR AND MURSI SINCE BOTH HAKKI AND AYMAN WORKED FOR LATTER. PAO PROVIDED MURSI'S OFFICE AND CAR PHONE NUMBERS AND OFFICE ADDRESS AND SUGGESTED THAT ZEOLI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GO THERE IN MORNING IF CONTACT HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE WITH NASSAR. ZEOLI TELEPHONED PAO SECOND TIME THAT EVENING TO SAY THAT HE HAD WORD FROM ASWAN THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO TALK TO NASSAR BY PHONE NEXT MORNING. FOLLOWING MORNING, AT AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION, PAO ALSO ADVISED ZEOLI TO TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR GHORBAL, WHO WAS STILL IN CAIRO AND PROVIDED GHORBAL'S HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER. ZEOLI HAD BEEN UNABLE REACH ANYONE DURING THE NIGHT, BUT WAS STILL TRYING.

5. THAT WAS THE LAST DIRECT CONTACT HE HAD WITH GROUP. WEEKEND EDITION OF AHRAH REPORTED THAT THEY HAD MET WITH SADAT IN ASWAN. ASKED HOW THIS HAD BEEN ARRANGED, MURSI SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD PAO THAT GHORBAL HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE PRESIDENT MEET WITH GROUPCEY REPRESENTED 48 MILLION AMERICANS, AND THEY ARE VERY INFLUENTIAL. THEY CONTROL OVER 200 TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE U.S." AND, ACCORDING GHORBAL, HAVE RECENTLY BECOME PRO-ARAB. AS RESULT, GROUP HAD TRAVELED TO ASWAN IN PRESIDENCY AIRCRAFT SINCE THERE WAS NO WAY TO GET THEM TO ASWAN IN TIME VIA COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT.

6. SINCE THEY WERE BEHIND IN THEIR SCHEDULE BECAUSE OF THE DELAY IN EGYPT, GROUP HAD ASKED (ACCORDING PRESIDENCY DIRECTOR HASSAN KAMEL) IF SADAT WOULD SEND THEM ON TO AMMAN IN HIS PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT. SADAT AGREED TO DO SO. MURSI, WHO WAS WITH GROUP IN ASWAN, SAID THEY WERE EXTREMELY IMPRESSED" WITH SADAT. EGYPTIANS SEEMED PLEASED ABOUT THE VISIT.

7. LOCAL PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT SADAT HAD ASKED THE GROUP TO CARRY A WRITTEN MESSAGE TO ISRAELI LEADERS. THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF CONTENT. SADAT HAS SAID NOTHING TO US ABOUT ANY SUCH MESSAGE. ELITS

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